their bids for 15 Service Areas each. Form the equity structure of these two companies, it was found that none of their partners arc common and as such there was no violation to the eligibility criteria prescribed in the Tender Document. However, in order to ensure fair competition, all the bidders were asked to confirm that there is no common interest of any of the partners/promoters/constituents in any other bidding company who has bid for the same service area and in case their is any common interest, only on bid for a service area shall be considered. They were given option to retain only such bids so as to ensure fair competition. In response to this, M/s. Reliance Communications Private Limited chose to withdraw all the bids submitted by them for 15 Circles. This was allowed to the company. The Earnest Money Bank Guarantee (EMBG) and Financial Bids were returned to the company before the first stage Financial Bids were scheduled to the opened. Withdrawal of the bids by M/s Reliance Communications settled the matter. Allowing both the bids would have given rise to unfair competition leading to subsequent stages of financial bidding as infructuous. EMBG can not be forfeited in the situation where a bidder is disqualified in the pre-qualification stage or opted to withdraw the bids in terms of option given by the Government.

(d) Docs not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

NPA lying against Essar Oil

1000. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will be Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Performing Assets of the country's financial institutions shot up by 12 per cent to cross over Rs. 18,000/-crore during the last year as per latest report of RBI.

(b) if so, what are details thereof including the names of the top 20 companies heading in Non-Performing Assets;

(c) whether it is a fact that Essar Oil which is onc of the defaulting company was given fresh loans despite huge Non-Performing Assets; and

(d) if so, what are the details of fresh loans given to that company during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The total amount of net NPAs of the select all-India financial institutions *(viz.* IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, TFCI, Exim Bank, IDFC, IIBI, SIDBI, NABARD and NHB) as on 31 March, 2000 and 31 March, 2001 were Rs. 18,110 crores and Rs. 17^155 crore (provisional). However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statues governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Imposition of Uniform Sales Tax in Pondicherry

1001. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Territory of Pondicherry has imposed uniform sales tax; and

(b) how much amount was collected during the period from 1994—2000 and 2000 to 2001 by way of sales tax in the Union Territory of Pondicherry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Pondicherry has reported that it has implemented uniform floor rates of sales-tax in respect of 114 items. The amount of sales-tax collected during the period from 1994 to 2001 is as follows:

Year	Amount of sales tax
1994-95	Rs. 78.40 crore
1995-96	Rs. 102.31 crore
1996-97	Rs. 122.86 crore
1997-98	Rs. 133.37 crore
1998-99	Rs. 148.63 crore
1999-2000	Rs. 171.69 crore
2000-2001	Rs. 193.50 crore